

REISSUE PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Reissue Application of

Kaoru MATSUMOTO

Serial No.: Reissue Application of U.S. Patent No. 6,368,081 issued April 9, 2002
(U.S. Patent Application No. 09/603,973 filed June 26, 2000)

Filed:

For: BLOWER

Docket No.: 106609.99

REISSUE DECLARATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Kaoru MATSUMOTO, hereby declare that:

1. I am a citizen of Japan with the addresses as stated below next to my name.
2. I have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to in the Oath/Declaration.
3. I believe that I am the original and first inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought and that is described and claimed in the reissue application and in U.S. Letters Patent No. 6,368,081 which issued from U.S. Patent Application No. 09/603,973 filed June 26, 2000.
4. I claim the priority benefits of the following application:

Japanese Patent Application No. 11-329598 filed November 19, 1999.
5. I acknowledge my duty to disclose information that is material to the examination of this reissue application in accordance with 37 C.F.R §1.56(a).

6. I consider U.S. Patent No. 6,368,081 to be partly inoperative by reason of claiming less than I had a right to claim because the original claims are unduly limited and may not provide an adequate scope of protection.

7. For example, independent claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,368,081 recites that the openings in the body portion where the plurality of blades are mounted are "substantially ring-like." However, the exact shape of the openings is not necessary to the patentability of the claim, and this recitation in claim 1 thereby renders the claims unnecessarily limiting and partly inoperative.

8. All errors being corrected in this reissue application up to the time of filing this declaration arose without any deceptive intention on my part.

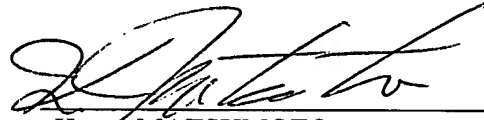
9. I hereby revoke all prior powers of attorney and appoint the following as our attorneys of record with full power of substitution and revocation to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent Office:

James A. Oliff, Reg. No. 27,075; William P. Berridge, Reg. No. 30,024;
Kirk M. Hudson, Reg. No. 27,562; Thomas J. Pardini, Reg. No. 30,411;
Edward P. Walker, Reg. No. 31,450; Robert A. Miller, Reg. No. 32,771;
Mario A. Costantino, Reg. No. 33,565; Joel S. Armstrong, Reg. No. 36,430;
Christopher W. Brown, Reg. No. 38,025; Richard E. Rice, Reg. No. 31,560;
Paul Tsou, Reg. No. 37,956; and Eric D. Morehouse, Reg. No. 38,565.

All correspondence in connection with this application should be sent to Oliff & Berridge, PLC, P.O. Box 19928, Alexandria, Virginia 22320, telephone (703) 836-6400.

10. I have reviewed and understand the contents of this reissue declaration, and all statements made herein of my knowledge are true, and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent reissued thereon.

Date: March 17, 2004



Kaoru MATSUMOTO

Residence: Kitasaku-gun, Nagano-ken, Japan

Address: c/o Minebea Co., Ltd., Karuizawa
Manufacturing Unit
4106-73 Miyota, Miyota-machi
Kitasaku-gun, Nagano-ken, Japan